

Claims

1. Use of a partially acylated fructan having a degree of substitution with acyl groups of 0.4 - 2.5 and a degree of substitution of less than 0.5 with other substituents as a bleach activator.
2. Use according to Claim 1, wherein the fructan is acylated with C₁-C₆ acyl groups.
3. Use according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the fructan is acylated with a degree of substitution of 0.6 - 1.8.
4. Use according to one of Claims 1 - 3, wherein the fructan has an average chain length of 3 - 60, in particular 4 - 30.
5. Use according to one of Claims 1 - 4, wherein the degree of substitution of carboxymethyl groups is less than 0.2.
6. Use according to one of Claims 1 - 5, wherein the fructan is inulin.
7. Use according to one of Claims 1 - 6, wherein the fructan is acylated with acetyl and/or propionyl groups.

8. A process of producing an acetylated and/or propionylated fructan or fructan derivative by acylation of the fructan or derivative thereof with a reactive acyl derivative of acetic and/or propionic acid, characterised in that the acylation is carried out in an aqueous medium at a pH of between 7 and 9.

9. A process according to Claim 8, characterised in that the acylation is carried out at a temperature of between 0 and 40 °C.

10. Partially acetylated and/or propionylated fructan obtainable using the method according to Claim 8 or 9, which has a solubility in water of at least 1 g/l, in particular of at least 2 g/l.